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### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY  
PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

|                                                                   |                                                                   |                                                                  |                                                                          |                                                                     |                                                                       |                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>SUNDAY:</b><br>MARRYBELL MADURO<br>SINGER<br>6:30 TO 8:30 P.M. | <b>MONDAY:</b><br>ANDERSON BAHAMON<br>SINGER<br>6:30 TO 8:30 P.M. | <b>TUESDAY:</b><br>JEAN PAUL<br>SAXOPHONIST<br>6:30 TO 8:30 P.M. | <b>WEDNESDAY:</b><br>MAILLEYN ALVARADO<br>VIOLINIST<br>6:30 TO 8:30 P.M. | <b>THURSDAY:</b><br>MARRYBELL MADURO<br>SINGER<br>6:30 TO 8:30 P.M. | <b>FRIDAY:</b><br>MAILLEYN ALVARADO<br>VIOLINIST<br>7:00 TO 9:00 P.M. | <b>SATURDAY:</b><br>RICKY THOMAS<br>GUITAR<br>6:30 TO 8:30 P.M. |
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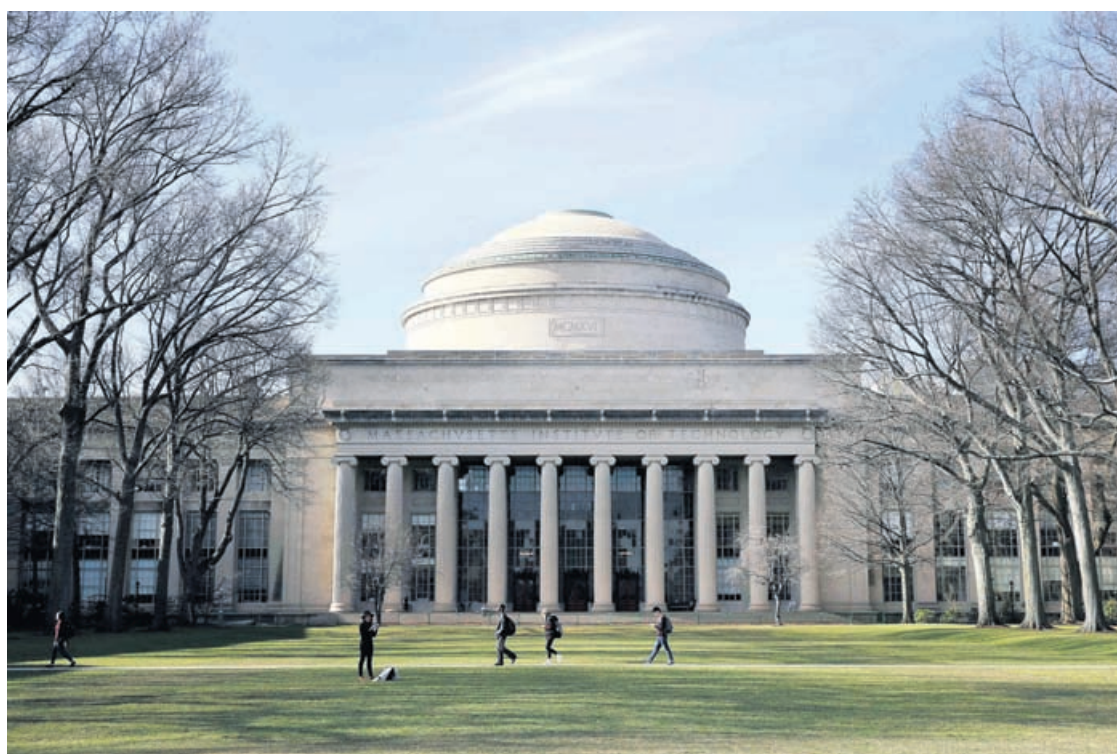
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# MIT president says she 'cannot support' proposal to adopt Trump priorities for funding benefits

By **COLLIN BINKLEY**  
AP Education Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology said Friday she "cannot support" a White House proposal that asks MIT and eight other universities to adopt President Donald Trump's political agenda in exchange for favorable access to federal funding. MIT is among the first to express forceful views either in favor of or against an agreement the White House billed as providing "multiple positive benefits," including "substantial and meaningful federal grants." Leaders of the University of Texas system said they were honored its flagship university in Austin was invited, but most other campuses have remained silent as they review the document. In a letter to Trump administration officials, MIT President Sally Kornbluth said MIT disagrees with provisions of the proposal, including some that would limit free speech and the university's independence. She said it's inconsistent with MIT's belief that scientific funding should be based on merit alone.



Students walk past the "Great Dome" atop Building 10 on the Massachusetts Institute of Technology campus in Cambridge, Mass., April 3, 2017.

Associated Press

"Therefore, with respect, we cannot support the proposed approach to addressing the issues facing higher education," Kornbluth said in a letter to Education Secretary Linda McMahon and White House officials. The higher education compact circulated last week requires universities to make a wide range of commitments in line with Trump's political agenda on topics

from admissions and women's sports to free speech and student discipline. The universities were invited to provide "limited, targeted feedback" by Oct. 20 and make a decision no later than Nov. 21. Others that received the 10-page proposal are: Vanderbilt, the University of Pennsylvania, Dartmouth College, the University of Southern California, the University of Arizona, Brown

University and the University of Virginia. It was not clear how the schools were selected or why.

## Colleges have faced mounting pressure to reject the proposal

University leaders face immense pressure to reject the compact amid opposition from students, faculty, free speech advocates and higher education groups. Leaders of some other universities have called it ex-

ortion. The mayor and city council in Tucson, home of the University of Arizona, formally opposed the compact, calling it an "unacceptable act of federal interference."

Even some conservatives have dismissed the compact as a bad approach. Frederick Hess, director of education policy at the American Enterprise Institute, called it "profoundly problematic" and said the government's requests are "ungrounded in law."

At the University of Virginia, officials invited campus feedback on the proposal this week.

A message from university leaders said it would be "very difficult" to accept certain terms of the arrangement and said the decision will be guided by "principles of academic freedom and free inquiry." Democrats in the Virginia Senate threatened to cut the university's funding if it signed the deal. In a letter to the university's leaders on Tuesday, top Democrats called the compact a trap and said the state would not "subsidize an institution that has ceded its independence to federal political control." □

# She saw a car-sized object above a Texas farm and found a wayward hunk of NASA equipment

By **SEAN MURPHY**  
Associated Press

When Ann Walter looked outside her rural West Texas home, she didn't know what to make of the bulky object slowly drifting across the sky. She was even more surprised to see what actually landed in her neighbor's wheat field: a boxy piece of scientific equipment about the size of a sport-utility vehicle, attached to a massive parachute, adorned with NASA stickers. She called the local sheriff's office and learned that NASA, indeed, was looking for a piece of equipment that had gone lost. "It's crazy, because when

you're standing on the ground and see something in the air, you don't realize how big it is," she said. "It was probably a 30-foot parachute. It was huge."



In this photo provided by Ann Walter, Ann Walter and her husband, Hayden, stand in front of a piece of NASA research equipment attached to a parachute that fell from the sky near their home in Edmonson, Texas, Thursday, Oct. 2, 2025.

Associated Press

Walter said she soon got a call from NASA's Columbia Scientific Balloon Facility, which launches large unmanned, high altitude research balloons more than 20 miles into the atmosphere to conduct scientific experiments.

Officials at NASA, which is impacted by the ongoing government shutdown, did not return messages Thursday.

A message left with the balloon facility also was not immediately returned.

A launch schedule on the balloon facility's website shows a series of launches from Fort Sumner, New Mexico, about 140 miles (225 kilometers) west of where the

equipment landed.

Hale County Sheriff David Cochran confirmed that NASA officials called his office last week in search of the equipment.

Walter said she ultimately spoke with someone at the balloon facility who told her it had been launched a day earlier from Fort Sumner, and uses telescopes to gather information about stars, galaxies and black holes.

"The researchers came out with a truck and trailer they used to pick it up," she said. But not before Walter and her family, who live in Edmonson, Texas, were able to capture some photos and videos. □



# Trump suggests canceling Xi meeting and threatens more tariffs after China restricts key exports

By JOSH BOAK and  
DIDI TANG

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Donald Trump said Friday that “there seems to be no reason” to meet with Chinese leader Xi Jinping as part of an upcoming trip to South Korea and threatened additional tariffs after China restricted exports of rare earths needed for American industry.

The Republican president suggested that he was looking at a “massive increase” of import taxes on Chinese products in response to Xi’s moves. It’s possible that this could amount to either posturing by the United States for eventual negotiations or a retaliatory step that could foster new fears about the stability of the global economy.

“One of the Policies that we are calculating at this moment is a massive increase of Tariffs on Chinese products coming into the United States of America,” Trump posted on his Truth Social platform. “There are many other countermeasures that are, likewise, under serious consideration.” The United States and China have been jostling for advantage in trade talks, after the import taxes announced earlier this year triggered a trade war between the world’s two largest economies. Both nations agreed to ratchet down tariffs after negotiations in Switzerland and the United Kingdom, yet tensions remain as China has continued to restrict America’s access to the difficult-to-mine rare earths needed for a wide array of U.S. technologies.

Trump did not formally cancel the meeting with Xi, so much as indicate that it might not happen as part of a trip at the end of the month in Asia. The trip was scheduled to include a stop in Malaysia, which is hosting the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit; a stop in Japan; and a visit to South Korea, where he was slated to meet with Xi ahead of the



U.S. President Donald Trump, left, shakes hands with Chinese President Xi Jinping during a meeting on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Osaka, western Japan, June 29, 2019.

Associated Press

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit.

“I was to meet President Xi in two weeks, at APEC, in South Korea, but now there seems to be no reason to do so,” Trump posted.

Trump’s threat shattered a monthslong calm on Wall Street, and the S&P 500 fell as much as 2% on worries about rising tensions between the world’s two largest economies.

China’s new restrictions

On Thursday, the Chinese government restricted access to the rare earths ahead of the scheduled Trump-Xi meeting. Beijing would require foreign companies to get special approval for shipping the metallic elements abroad. It also announced permitting requirements on exports of technologies used in the mining, smelting and recycling of rare earths, adding that any export requests for products used in military goods would be rejected. Trump said that China is “becoming very hostile” and that it’s holding the world “captive” by restricting access to the metals and magnets used in electronics, computer chips, lasers, jet engines and other technologies.

“I have not spoken to President Xi because there was

no reason to do so,” Trump posted. “This was a real surprise, not only to me, but to all the Leaders of the Free World.”

The Chinese Embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to an Associated Press request for comment.

The U.S. president said the move on rare earths was “especially inappropriate” given the announcement of a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in Gaza so that the remaining hostages from Hamas’ Oct. 7, 2023, attack can be released. He raised the possibility without evidence that China was trying to steal the moment from him for his role in the ceasefire, saying on social media, “I wonder if that timing was coincidental?”

There is already a backlog of export license applications from Beijing’s previous round of export controls on rare earth elements, and the latest announcements “add further complexity to the global supply chain of rare earth elements,” the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China said in a statement.

Gracelin Baskaran, director of the Critical Minerals Security Program at the Center for Strategic and In-

ternational Studies in Washington, D.C., said China signaled it is open to negotiations, but it also holds leverage because it dominates the market for rare earths with 70% of the mining and 93% of the production of permanent magnets made from them that are crucial to high-tech products and the military.

“These restrictions undermine our ability to develop our industrial base at a time when we need to. And then second, it’s a powerful negotiating tool,” she said. And these restrictions can hurt efforts to strengthen the U.S. military in the midst of global tensions because rare earths are needed.

Trump’s trade war The outbreak of a tariff-fueled trade war between the U.S. and China initially caused the world economy to shudder over the possibility of global commerce collapsing. Trump imposed tariffs totaling 145% on Chinese goods, with China responding with import taxes of 125% on American products.

The taxes were so high as to effectively be a blockade on trade between the countries. That led to negotiations that reduced the tariff charged by the U.S. government to 30%

and the rate imposed by China to 10% so that further talks could take place. But differences continue over America’s access to rare earths from China, U.S. restrictions on China’s ability to import advanced computer chips, sales of American-grown soybeans and a series of tit-for-tat port fees being levied by both countries starting on Tuesday.

Just what Trump’s threat meant was open to interpretation, as it could simply be an attempt to gain some leverage under the belief that China has overplayed its hand or an ominous sign of trade tensions leading to a potentially destructive increase in tariff rates.

Nebraska Republican Rep. Don Bacon said “China has not been a fair-trade partner for years,” but the Trump administration should have anticipated China’s restrictions on rare earths and refusal to buy American soybeans in response to the tariffs.

How analysts see moves by US and China

Wendy Cutler, senior vice president of the Asia Society Policy Institute, said Trump’s post shows the fragility of the détente between the two countries and it’s unclear whether the two sides are willing to de-escalate to save the bilateral meeting.

Cole McFaul, a research fellow at Georgetown University’s Center for Security and Emerging Technology, said that Trump appeared in his post to be readying for talks on the possibility that China had overplayed its hand. By contrast, China sees itself as having come out ahead when the two countries have engaged in talks.

“From Beijing’s point of view, they’re in a moment where they’re feeling a lot of confidence about their ability to handle the Trump administration,” McFaul said. “Their impression is they’ve come to the negotiating table and extracted key concessions.” □



# Trump officials not giving up on deporting Abrego Garcia to West African nation despite resistance

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN  
and TRAVIS LOLLER

Associated Press

GREENBELT, Md. (AP) —

The Trump administration is pushing again to deport Kilmar Abrego Garcia, a Maryland man who was mistakenly sent to El Salvador, and hasn't given up on moving him to Eswatini or Ghana even though both have rejected the idea, an immigration official told a judge Friday.

Abrego Garcia has challenged efforts to re-deport him to a third country after the government admitted that a previous order prevents his deportation to his home country of El Salvador. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said recently that it plans to deport him to the southern African country of Eswatini.

The case has come to represent the bitter partisan struggle over the President Donald Trump's sweeping immigration policy and mass deportation agenda. U.S. District Judge Paula Xinis in Maryland will decide whether Abrego Garcia should remain in custody or be released from immigration detention while his challenge moves forward.



Immigrant activists rally outside of the United States District Court District of Maryland ahead of an evidentiary hearing where attorneys for Kilmar Abrego Garcia will seek his immediate release from immigration detention, Friday, Oct. 10, 2025, in Greenbelt, Md.

Associated Press

She ordered government officials to explain the steps they have taken to remove Abrego Garcia to another country.

An ICE official told the judge during a hearing Friday that the government was continuing to talk with officials in Eswatini about sending him there even though the country rejected the idea this week.

He said his understanding is that the administration also was still in discussions with Ghana. However, Ghana's foreign minister, Sam Okudzeto Ablakwa, posted on social media Friday that the nation will not accept Abrego Garcia.

Abrego Garcia could be removed within 72 hours if the judge allows it and once the administration

receives approval from a third country, said John Schultz, a deputy assistant director who helps oversee removals for ICE.

"We could quickly operationalize the removal," Schultz said.

Abrego Garcia's attorneys have charged that the Republican administration is trying to illegally use the immigration system to pun-

ish him after the embarrassment of his mistaken deportation.

Meanwhile, attorneys in criminal court in Tennessee have made similar claims about retribution in the human smuggling charges brought against Abrego Garcia in June on the day he was returned to the U.S. from El Salvador. The Tennessee judge has concluded that Abrego Garcia's prosecution may be an illegal retaliation after he successfully sued the Trump administration over his deportation.

The smuggling charges stem from a 2022 traffic stop in Tennessee. Abrego Garcia was not charged at the time, and agents did not begin investigating the stop until earlier this year after his wife sued over his deportation.

At a Friday hearing in Nashville, U.S. District Judge Waverly Crenshaw said he will hear evidence on the motion to dismiss the charges on Nov. 3. In addition, defense attorneys said they intend to file a motion asking that statements unrelated to the smuggling charges be removed from the indictment. □

## Blast at a Tennessee explosives plant leaves 19 people missing and feared dead, sheriff says

By TRAVIS LOLLER

Associated Press

McEWEN, Tenn. (AP) — A blast that leveled an explosives plant Friday in rural Tennessee left 19 people missing and feared dead,

authorities said.

Humphreys County Sheriff Chris Davis said the blast at Accurate Energetic Systems, which supplies the military, was one of worst scenes he's ever seen. He

did not specify how many people were killed but referred to the 19 missing as "souls" and said officials were still speaking to family. "There's nothing to describe. It's gone," Davis said. "It's the most devastating scene that I've seen in my career."

People reported hearing and feeling the explosion from miles away. The company's website says it makes and tests explosives at an eight-building facility that sprawls across wooded hills in the Bucksnort area, about 60 miles (97 kilometers) southwest of Nashville.

Davis said investigators are trying to determine what happened and couldn't say what caused the ex-

plosion.

The cause of the explosion, which Davis called "devastating," was not immediately known, and the investigation could take days, the sheriff said.

Aerial footage of the aftermath by WTVF-TV showed the explosion had apparently obliterated one of the facility's hilltop buildings, leaving only smoldering wreckage and the burnt-out shells of vehicles.

There's no further danger of explosions, and the scene was under control Friday afternoon, according to Grey Collier, a spokesperson for the Humphreys County Emergency Management Agency.

Emergency crews were initially unable to enter the

plant because of continuing detonations, Hickman County Advanced EMT David Stewart said by phone. He didn't have any details on casualties.

Accurate Energetic Systems, based in nearby McEwen, did not immediately respond to a phone message seeking comment Friday morning.

"This is a tragedy for our community," McEwen Mayor Brad Rachford said in an email. He referred further comment to a county official.

Residents in Lobelville, a 20-minute drive from the scene, said they felt their homes shake and some people captured the loud boom of the explosion on their home cameras. □



Debris covers the ground and vehicles after a powerful blast ripped through a military explosives manufacturing plant in Hickman County, Tenn., on Friday, Oct. 10, 2025.

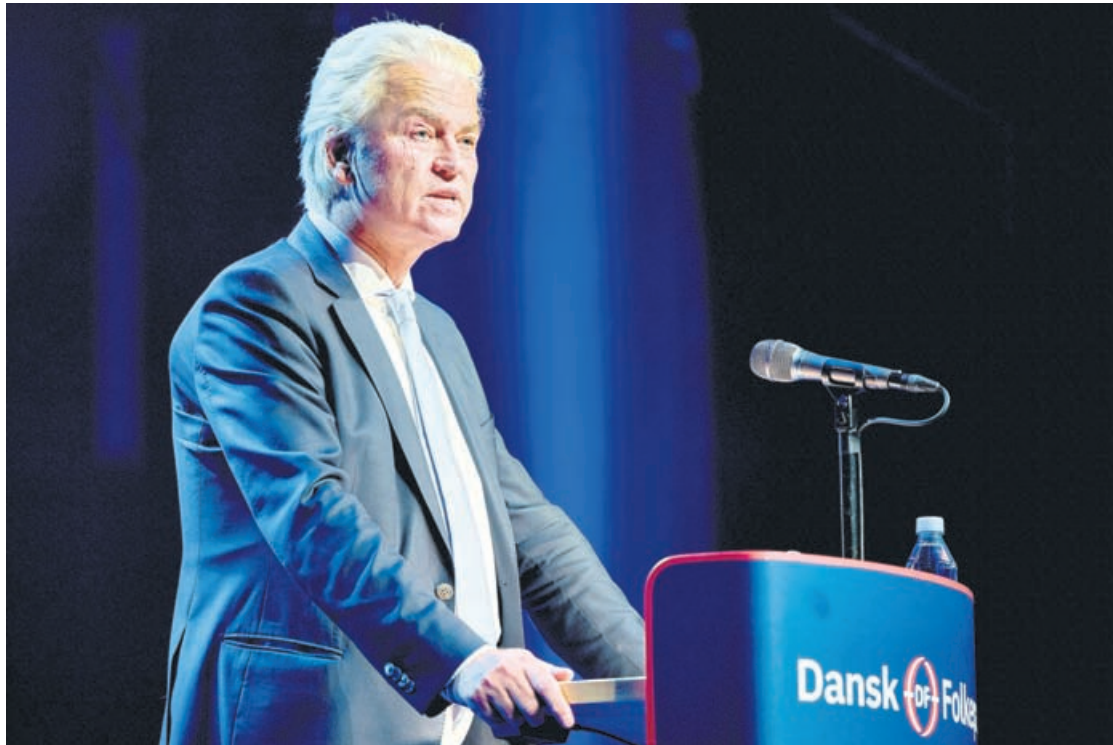
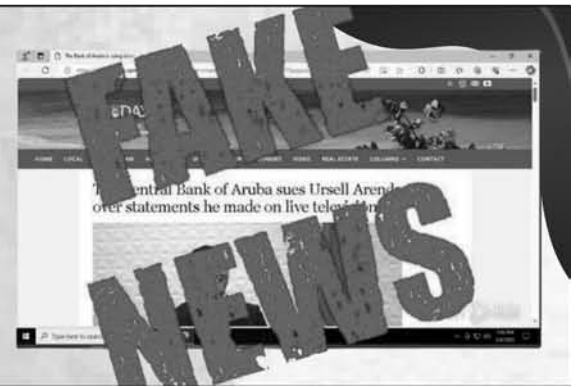
Associated Press



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Dutch politician Geert Wilders speaks at the Danish People's Party annual meeting, in Tinghallen, Viborg, Denmark, Saturday, Sept. 27, 2025.

Associated Press

## Dutch far-right politician Wilders fears he may have been a target of Belgian attack plotters

By LORNE COOK  
Associated Press

**BRUSSELS (AP)** — Dutch far-right politician Geert Wilders said Friday that he's suspending campaigning for national elections later this month following reports that he was a possible target of a suspected plot in Belgium to kill politicians using a drone carrying explosives.

Three men were taken into custody on Thursday after searches of their homes in the port city of Antwerp by police using explosives sniffer dogs. A homemade bomb was found at one home, but it wasn't operational at the time, prosecutors said.

A bag of steel balls also was found there, while a 3D printer believed to be used to make parts for the planned attack was found at another residence. Prosecutors said it appeared

"that the intention was to build a drone to attach a load."

Prosecutors said the police raids were part of an investigation into "attempted terrorist murder and participation in the activities of a terrorist group." They didn't identify the politicians who might have been targeted. But Belgian government ministers identified Prime Minister Bart De Wever as one target. On X, Wilders posted a Belgian news report that he and De Wever's successor as Antwerp mayor, Els van Doesburg, were also on the hit list. All three are right-wing politicians.

Wilders said in a later message on X that Dutch counterterrorism authorities do not "expect a residual threat, but I have a bad feeling about this and am therefore suspending all my campaign activities for the

time being."

Earlier Friday, he canceled an appearance at an election debate with other political leaders ahead of an early general election scheduled for Oct. 29.

Dutch Justice Minister Foort van Oosten said on X he had requested that the Dutch counterterrorism office "do everything necessary to enable Mr. Wilders to resume his work as soon as he wishes." He added that he would "never accept that politicians can't do their work because of threats." Wilders, an outspoken critic of Islam, has been a target of extremists for years and lives with round-the-clock protection. His Party for Freedom is leading in polls before the election, which was called after he pulled out of the ruling four-party coalition in a dispute about a crack-down on migration. □



Spain's Defense Minister Margarita Robles arrives for a meeting of the Ukraine Defence Contact Group at NATO headquarters in Brussels, Friday, April 11, 2025.

Associated Press

## Trump blasts Spain for being NATO's spending 'laggard.' Madrid replies that it is a 'loyal' ally

By JOSEPH WILSON  
Associated Press

**BARCELONA, Spain (AP)** — Spain's defense minister has defended her country's commitment to NATO after U.S. President Donald Trump floated the idea that the southern European country should be expelled from the military alliance for not spending enough on its armed forces.

In comments made Thursday while meeting with Finnish President Alexander Stubb in the Oval Office, Trump said that Spain was a "laggard" and must be pressed to spend more on its military.

"You people are going to have to start speaking to Spain," Trump said. "You have to call them and find why they are a laggard. They have no excuse not to do this, but that's all right. Maybe you should throw them out of NATO, frankly."

Trump was referring to Spain being the sole member of the 32-nation alliance not to commit to increasing military spending to 5% of GDP in an agreement reached in June. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez secured a last-minute exemption, saying that Spain will only spend up to 2.1%, which he called "sufficient and realistic."

Spain's Defense Minister Margarita Robles told reporters in Madrid on Friday that "we are not worried."

"I believe that President Trump must know that Spain is one of the committed and loyal (NATO) allies," she said.

The eurozone's fourth-largest economy, Spain was NATO's lowest spender last year, according to the alliance's estimates, spending around 1.28% of its GDP on defense. In April, Sánchez announced that the country would reach 2% this year, for which he was criticized by some left-wing allies. □



## Peru wakes up to 7th president in less than a decade after President Boluarte ousted by Congress

By FRANKLIN BRICEÑO

Associated Press

**LIMA, Peru (AP)** — Peruvians woke up to their seventh president in less than a decade Friday, as 38-year-old José Jerí took the reins of the shaken nation after Congress ousted widely loathed President Dina Boluarte in a lightening overnight impeachment.

The young lawyer with scarce political experience, who just became president of the Congress in July, said shortly after being sworn in early Friday that he would seek "reconciliation," tackle Peru's runaway crime and ensure "neutrality" in elections when Peruvians elect a new president in April.

Lawmakers had setup a debate and impeachment trial late Thursday in the 130-member unicameral Congress after voting to accept four requests for a vote to remove Boluarte from office over what they said was her government's inability to stem crime.

They requested that Boluarte come before them shortly before midnight to defend herself, but when she did not appear they



Peru's former president of the Congress Jose Jeri, center, receives the presidential sash from congressman Fernando Rospigliosi, left, as he is sworn-in as the interim president in Lima, Peru, Friday, Oct. 10, 2025.

Associated Press

immediately voted to oust her. In short order, 124 lawmakers voted just past midnight to impeach Boluarte. There were no votes against the effort, the ninth attempt to remove her.

The shocking turn of events came just hours after a man open fired at a concert in the capital, injuring five and inflaming anger

over crime roiling the country.

Jerí's rapid ascension was all the more surprising because in August he gave a lengthy interview to Peruvian newspaper El Comercio in which he said he wouldn't replace Boluarte if she were impeached because he believed in "presidential institutionalism and

we're so close to the end of her term."

Boluarte's presidency Boluarte, Peru's first female president, took office in December 2022 after Parliament used the same mechanism to impeach her predecessor. Then-President Pedro Castillo was removed from office just two years into his five-year term

after attempting to dissolve the legislature to avoid his own removal.

Boluarte had served as Castillo's vice president before becoming president, so there was no vice president to take her place when she was removed Friday. Next in line was the president of the Congress, Jerí.

After Friday's vote, Boluarte spoke on national television, recounting her administration's achievements.

"I have not thought of myself, but rather of Peruvians," she said.

Minutes into her speech, the broadcast was interrupted to show Jerí's swearing in.

On Friday, the Attorney General's Office asked a judge to prohibit Boluarte from leaving the country while it investigates two cases, one alleged money laundering and the other alleged corruption. The judge did not immediately rule.

In a statement, investigators said that they are looking at money allegedly funneled through Boluarte before her presidency to the fugitive leader of a political party. □

## ICC judges decline to release former Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, citing flight risk

By MOLLY QUELL

Associated Press

**THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)** — Judges at the International Criminal Court on

Friday rejected a request from former Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte to be released from detention, finding he was likely to re-

fuse to return for trial and could use his freedom to intimidate witnesses.

Prosecutors at the ICC accuse Duterte of crimes against humanity for the deadly anti-drugs crackdowns he oversaw while in office, first as the mayor of a southern city and later as president.

Duterte's legal team asked a pre-trial panel of judges to release the octogenarian, arguing he was in frail health and his condition was deteriorating in the court's detention unit.

A panel of pretrial judges rejected the request, writing in a 23-page decision that, as a former president, Duterte "appears to have the necessary political contacts" to "help him ab-

scond."

The decision also points to the possibility that Duterte might use his freedom to interfere with the legal process. If he is released, judges wrote, there is a chance he would "pose a threat to (potential) witnesses, either directly or indirectly through his supporters."

Duterte's lawyer, Nick Kaufman, told The Associated Press the decision was "erroneous" and criticized keeping "a debilitated and cognitively impaired 80-year-old" in detention. Last month, judges postponed a hearing until a full medical assessment could be made. According to defense filings, Duterte's "cognitive faculties" have declined to a level that he

cannot assist his lawyers.

Rights groups and families of victims hailed Duterte's arrest in March, and the court's chief prosecutor, Karim Khan, called it "a crucial step in our continuous work to ensure accountability for the victims of the most serious crimes under ICC jurisdiction."

Two organizations supporting the families of suspects killed in Duterte's crackdown hailed the court's decision as "a resounding victory for justice and accountability."

In a joint statement, SENTRO and the CATW-AP said, "The ICC's ruling reaffirms a simple but powerful truth: no one, not even a former head of state, is above the law." □



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte addresses the troops during the 82nd anniversary celebration of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in suburban Quezon city northeast of Manila, Philippines on Dec. 20, 2017.

Associated Press



## A guide for the perfect picture

# Where to find the most Instagrammable places in Oranjestad



(Oranjestad)—Imagine, you're taking a stroll in the city center, and you want to take the most picture-perfect photo to show your friends and family back home and online. It seems like the perfect spot can be hard to find, but Oranjestad is full of great spots for

a quick snapshot! Here are the most Instagrammable places in Oranjestad.

### "I LOVE ARUBA"

Right on Paardenbaai Plaza, near the harbor entrance, you will spot a giant sign that reads "I LOVE ARUBA". A great first stop for a quick

shot with the family, this spot is among the few that has become a favorite among tourists, especially those that are visiting Aruba through a cruise vacation.

Speaking of giant signs that read "Aruba" (because there can never be too many), there is another sign you can find along the Linear Park, in front of Talk of the Town Hotel. It may be a long walk from the harbor to get there, but while you're at it, check out these other spots along the way!

### Wooden Swing on Plaza Daniel Leo

While you're in front of the Renaissance Mall, check out the wooden swing on the other side of the mall on Plaza Daniel Leo. Another favorite among visitors wanting a cute snapshot for Instagram. Just pass through the Renaissance Mall and find this gem in front of the back entrance!

Since you've made it this far, one question: How many blue horses have you spotted already?



### Renaissance Dock

Last but certainly not least, the Renaissance Dock is the perfect spot to take a beautiful picture, especially at sunset. The dock is located behind the Renaissance Market Place, and runs from the Renaissance Marina up

to Renaissance Beach and Wilhelmina Park. This spot offers a gorgeous view of the ocean and sunset, accompanied by the soft waves crashing on the shoreline. You may even spot some iguanas! □



## Lessons from our elders: Plants and fruits for medicinal use

ORANJESTAD—Though western medicine is now widely used for common illnesses and to keep our bodies healthy and happy, it is still very common in every household in Aruba (and around the world) to have staple home remedies that is passed on through generations. Here are some tips that our elders have passed on to us over the years.

### Pineapple



Pineapple has more uses than topping it on your Christmas ham. According to elders, the skin of a pineapple is great to use to refresh your body. Clean the skin thoroughly and make tea or warapa\* with it. It is said that this tea can also be drank after an operation on the ovaries or uterus. This gets rid of irritation and inflammation.

### Arrowroot

Arrowroot is native to tropical America and can be sold as a powder or whole. It is said that you can take arrowroot powder and make a "shalup" (porridge) for stomach pain or when you're feeling weak. You can make it with milk too, but it is advised to best use just water. You can also add prunes for a bit of sweetness. Arrowroot shalup is

also good to treat an unhealthy gut or for diarrhea.

To make arrowroot shalup, boil a bit of water and add one tablespoon of arrowroot powder and stir continuously until you reach porridge consistency. If you make a shalup with milk, add a pinch of salt. Raw arrowroot powder can be used to powder babies.

### Eggplant/Aubergine

Eggplants, or aubergines, are easy to find in supermarkets around the world and can be grown all year round on the island. Related to potato and tomato, eggplants are good to calm nerves. It can also be used to lower blood pressure, by steeping its leaves in boiled water and drinking it. You can also make eggplant juice to help purify your blood. However, do make sure to drink slowly; let it mix with your spit and then swallow.

Eggplant kataplan\* can also be used to treat skin tumors, abscesses and hemorrhoids. Eggplant kataplan can also be used externally to

treat arthritis.

\*warapa: term referring to a water and sugar solution, a.k.a simple syrup.

\*kataplan: porridge-like mixture used externally for wounds or parts of the body that are painful or swollen. □





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**Dining in? Try making some local favorites!**  
**How to make "pan bati"**

(Oranjestad)—If you're ever up for an Aruban snack, try making another Aruban classic appetizer called Pan Bati. Similar to a pancake both in appearance and cooking, this is a super easy meal that adults and children will both enjoy. Here's how to make it!

**Ingredients:**

2 cups of all purpose flour  
1 cup grams of fine corn-meal (we recommend the

Harina PAN brand)  
2 tbsp baking powder  
1 1/3 cup of milk  
1 pinch of salt  
2 tbsp of granulated sugar  
Oil for cooking

**Instructions:**

Add all the dry ingredients in a bowl first, and stir until well mixed. Then add the milk and beat until reached a pancake-like consistency. If more moisture is needed, add some water

until reached desired consistency.

In a hot pan with oil, pour in enough batter to cover the bottom of the pan. Just like pancakes, flip the pan bati when one side turns golden brown. When your pan bati is ready, place on a plate and cover with a clean kitchen towel.

Traditionally, pan bati is cut



in triangle pieces, and is often eaten as a side dish with soup, fried fish or stews.

However, it is also casually enjoyed with some butter and cheese on top! □

**Food culture in Aruba**

(Oranjestad) – Like many other cultures, an important aspect of the Aruban cultural identity is our connection to food and food traditions. The local food traditions consist of a melting pot of different cultural and religious eating habits and dishes.

**Breakfast, lunch and dinner**

The routine of breakfast, lunch and dinner on the island is one that does not completely follow a European or American routine, despite the major influences from these parts of the world on our culture and way of living. When it comes to the three important meals of the day, most of the Aruban population follows a Latin-American influenced routine.

**Breakfast**

Breakfast in Aruba is quite simple: a cup of coffee or tea, some bread, and sometimes an egg. Sometimes, due to the need of a quick "to-go"



breakfast, you may also find many snack trucks and cafes that sell sandwiches, pastechis (meat pie), arepas and empanadas early in the morning.

**Main Meal**

The main meal is typically eaten in most households around noon or in the afternoon. This can consist of meat, fish, and chicken—stewed or fried—with funchi (polenta) or rice with stewed vegetables. Often, fried or boiled plantain or pan bati (Aruban pancake) is included. Stews are a staple in Aruban cuisine and can be largely influenced by Latin-American and Latin/Afro-Caribbean Stews. Some of the more unique stews and soups from the ABC Islands\* include sopi di bonchi cora (red kidney bean soup with pig tail), sopi mondongo (tripe soup), carni stoba (beef stew), comcomber stoba (West Indian gherkin stew) and much more.

**Dinner Time**

Dinner time can vary significantly from household to household. Unlike the U.S. or in Europe, dinner time typically does not consist of a whole (warm) meal. Instead, the evening

"meal" can typically consist of something lighter, like a sandwich, though it is not uncommon to see leftovers from the main meal reheated and eaten again. Tea and coffee are often also served with the evening snack.

**(Religious) Holidays**

Christmas is probably the biggest global holiday, and every culture has its own spin on what their Christmas cuisine entails. In Aruba, our Christmas cuisine is again largely based on Latin-American influences, most notably from Venezuela. Ayacas and the famous pan di ham\* are two crucial holiday dishes, along with stuffed turkey, roasted glazed ham topped with pineapples, arroz con pollo (rice and chicken) and potato salad, among other items. Traditional drinks include ponche crema (Aruban eggnog), chuculati pinda (hot chocolate with peanut butter), and homemade fruit punch. Desserts include, bolo di pistachio (pistachio cake), bolo di cashupete (cashew cake), quesillo (flan), bolo preto (dark fruit cake), drigidek (gingerbread), pan boyo (bread cake) and more.

**Snacks and tasty delights**

Besides meals and dishes that are eaten on the dinner table, Aruba also has a food tradition that includes snacks and other tasty delights that you may easily find around the island. These include, Saco\*, basket, pastechi, kroket, deditos, Johnny cake and more. These snacks are usually sold at local snack trucks and cafes, often located on the side of the road. In the area of Tanki Leendert and Tanki flip, for example, there are many of these trucks parked on the side of the road and often open until late at night—offering tasty and filling snacks post night-life fun. □

\*ABC Islands: Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao

\*Pan di ham: Derived from the Venezuelan Pan de Jamon (rolled up bread with ham, raisins and olives)

\*Saco: Saco literally means "bag". Saco contains fried potatoes, plantains, chicken (and ribs) and a Johnny cake, served in a paper bag.

Source: Voeding, voedingsgewoonten en gerechten op Aruba (Nutrition, Food Traditions and Dishes on Aruba) by Biblioteca Nacional Aruba



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## Cas di Torto

Cas di torto (also called cas di lodo or cas di bara) is a traditional building technique from Aruba. It refers to a type of houses made of mud with rounded corners. These houses were usually found around the plantations. The few structures that still exist are the

oldest structures that are left standing in the country.

The technique probably came over from the Venezuelan Paraguana Peninsula in the 18th century. Existing houses date back 150 years. Until 1925 many houses on Aruba were built

using this technique, afterwards it fell into disuse. In 2005 there were 62 cas di torto houses left, of which only four were in good condition.

The skeleton of the houses is made up of round wooden poles placed with distances of 1.5 feet between them. Branches are interwoven between them, completing the structural support. On this basis, loam is applied, mixed with sand, water and para grass. This is then coated with aloe vera juice, which gives the white colour and helps to protect against the weather.

On top of the poles pieces of wood are fitted that serve as the base for the roof beams. Until 1815 the roofing usually consisted



of corn (maize) stems, afterwards the nuclei of columnar cacti were used. The floor is made of loam, mixed with cement or cow dung.

The houses were usually divided into a kitchen, a living room, a porch and a bedroom. In the kitchen would be a wooden or metal barrel for storing water that

was collected in small rain ponds. Around this barrel a thick loam wall would be erected. Often large families would live in these houses; people would sleep on mats on the floor.

If you visit the Arikok National Park you will be able to see a very nice cas di torto. □

## Aruba Tourism Authority Honors Loyal Visitors at Bucuti & Tara Boutique Beach Resort!



**The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the pleasure of recognizing one of Aruba's Goodwill Ambassadors. The honorees were presented with a certificate in appreciation of their many years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island.**

This honorary certification is awarded on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba for 10, 20, or 35 consecutive years or more.

The three levels of recognition are:

- Distinguished Visitor – 10+ consecutive years visiting Aruba
- Goodwill Ambassador – 20+ consecutive years visiting Aruba
- Emerald Ambassador – 35+ consecutive years visiting Aruba

Goodwill Ambassadors Honored:  
Mr. Parker & Mrs. Michelle Bailey from

Billerica, Massachusetts, United States. Mr. Jorgino Willems, representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, along with staff members of Bucuti & Tara Boutique Beach Resort, presented the certificate, offered gifts, and expressed heartfelt thanks to the honorees for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, their home away from home.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba, as shared by the honorees:

- Aruba's weather.
- Aruba's people.
- Aruba's wonderful dining options.
- Aruba's nightlife.
- "The feeling of safety"

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island." □



## Another Treasure of Aruba's Beaches: Sea Glass!

It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothened, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and



interesting process.

It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass.

The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass."

The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry!

Once glass makes its way

into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges.

Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and

even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass.

Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.

The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the easiest to find are the brown (Amstel & Polar beer), green (Heineken & Balashi beer) and clear glass which are the soft much loved "soft

drink" bottles.

If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day!

Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can change into treasures!

Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! □

## Know more about the Town Hall Eloy Arends building

**The Monuments bureau shares some essential facts about the Town Hall known as the Eloy Arends building. The aim is to educate the community about the mansion's construction, history, and preservation.**

The Doctor Eloy Arends building is located at the

Wilhelminastraat 8 and was the home of the Arends family. It was the first building that the Monuments bureau, and the Government of Aruba, restored in 1997. Mr. Medardo 'Dada' Picus, was the architect of this Aruban-Caribbean building. The building sits on a 1.545 m² plot of land and is

a typical Aruban mansion. It is an open home with false walls that allow the connection of the rooms with each other.

The entrance has large doors and columns supporting the floor of the upper balcony. In between the columns, there are decoration details made out of wood. The elaborately detailed embellishment is known as gingerbread trim and the triangular decorative wall surface over the columns is called the tympanum.

The top of the doors and windows have stained glass.

The building is not built on ground level but at approximately 1.5 meters above ground level. This mansion elevation created storage below the wooden floors and allowed proper ventilation.

The building has lots of windows which allow plenty of



light inside, as well as good ventilation.

It has dormer windows and crowns on the outside part of the roof and different decorations on the edges of the walls and facade.

This is a stunning building full of beautiful details that resemble its beauty and transform into a history of love. Aruban tradition for "well-to-do" families dictates that before a man gets married, he has to present his future wife with a newly built and fully furnished house. It was certainly the case with this building.

Due to the engagement

between Eloy Arends and Monica Lacle (daughter of Adriaan Lacle, who is mainly known for the boulevard that bears his name), the construction of the mansion began in 1922 and was completed in 1925 when the couple got married.

The Office of the Civil Registry is located in the adjacent building, whereas the mansion hall is used exclusively for civil wedding ceremonies.

The Monuments bureau will continue to contribute and educate the community about the history of our monuments with significant value for Aruba. □





# The district of Savaneta: A quick history guide to the island's first capital

(Oranjestad)—Before Oranjestad became the island nation's capital, Aruba's first capital was the district of Savaneta. Here is where the cultural identity of Aruba was born, and from where the rest of the island developed into what it is today.

Savaneta is said to have been the first place where the Caquetio inhabitants first stepped foot on the island. Though there isn't hard evidence to back this up, but considering the legend of the Cacique Arua, it is believed that there were already movements on Aruba—and Savaneta—around 88 AD.

The Caquetios probably made their way to the island either from Venezuela, Colombia or other Caribbean islands in the region, but with good weather it was relatively easy for them to travel back and forth in their canoes. So, since the Caquetios discovered the island, Aruba found her first form of civilization.

It wasn't until 1499 when Aruba met another group of people who set foot on the island: the Spanish explorer Alonso de Ojeda. De Ojeda first took notice of Aruba off the coast of Venezuela, during his exploration of the Latin American country. This was on August 9th, 1499. However, de Ojeda didn't actually sail to the island till 4 days later, on August 23rd, 1499. This was the beginning of the Spanish era on Aruba (1499-1636).

Alonso usually didn't stop at every island or land he saw, especially not in the Caribbean. He would often take



notice of land from afar and continue sailing. However, Aruba was an exception. He had heard that there were "quebracho" trees on the island, which were commonly used to produce dye or paint. But since these trees could not be found in Savaneta, he continued to search in the area of what is now known as Santa Cruz. The best way to transport the tree barks was via a route passing through Savaneta, and so the first road between Savaneta and Santa Cruz was made.

## The Dutch colonial era (1636-1805)

During the 80-year war

between The Netherlands and Spain, Dutch explorers and merchants began to travel to the ABC islands. Once they landed in Aruba, they deported the small Arawan and Spanish community that was living on the island. This was the beginning of colonization of the ABC islands by the Dutch empire. Around the same, the West Indian Company (WIC) was born. Bonaire and Curacao were mostly used for plantations, where the Dutch had transported slaves from Africa. Aruba, on the other hand, was mostly used to raise cattle and to house the haring factory. The Dutch had often forced the

indigenous community to work for them.

In 1636, when the Netherlands won the war against Spain, the country surrendered the islands to the Dutch.

The Dutch administration appointed the island's first commander, an Irish man named N. Williams. Because the Dutch were interested in other Caribbean islands and countries in South America, they imported Dutch merchants and business men, all of whom resided in Savaneta. This way, Savaneta officially became the island's first capital.

However, at the end of the 18th century, the commander at the time, J.R. Lauffer, moved his office to what is now "Horse Bay" in Oranjestad. Because the highest office on the island moved away from Savaneta, the capital lost its title to what was called then Playa.

## How Savaneta got its name

The name Savaneta probably has a Spanish origin. It was said that when the Spanish climbed a hill called Yara, they saw that the area was mostly open and had no big trees. In Spanish, such a land area is called a "savana".

Because of its land surface, Savaneta was a great place to construct cattle farms. From here, the farmer culture on Aruba was born. Before the Aruban Gold Rush and the construction of the Refinery in San Nicolas, most residents were farmers, and Savaneta had many inhabitants that farmed fruits and vegetables. They also continued the tradition of raising cattle, like goat, sheep, pigs and horses. Savaneta was one of the first places on the island to have a general farming culture. From this culture, many other traditions were born, like the Dera Gay Holiday that we celebrate every year on June 24th. □

Source: *Historia di Savaneta (History of Savaneta)* by Adolf "Dufi" Kock.





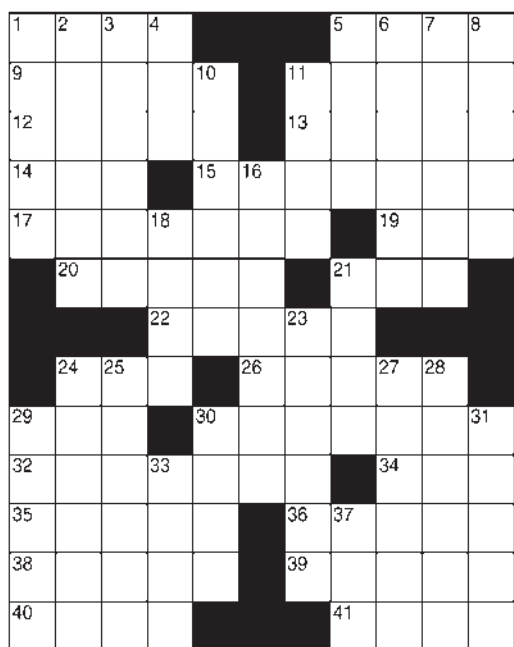
# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 36 Scottish lord
  - 1 Play parts
  - 5 Visibility lessener
  - 9 Cut off
  - 11 Printer need
  - 12 Ship of 1492
  - 13 Heart, e.g.
  - 14 Words with pickle, stew or jam
  - 15 Dessert tube
  - 17 Packing plant
  - 19 Fish eggs
  - 20 Kick off
  - 21 Diet no-no
  - 22 Hit's counterpart
  - 24 Mornings: Abbr.
  - 26 Bath bars
  - 29 Relaxing retreat
  - 30 Choral composition
  - 32 South-western bar
  - 34 Fireplace item
  - 35 Quartet doubled



- DOWN**
- 1 Jellied dish
  - 2 Porcelains for dishes
  - 3 Lease signer
  - 4 Plopped down
  - 5 Rhino feature
  - 6 Soft wool
  - 7 Fanatic
  - 8 Bert's buddy
  - 10 Indy autos
  - 11 Theater prize
  - 16 Craftsman
  - 18 Collars
  - 21 Accomplishment
  - 23 Be generous
  - 24 Cochise's people
  - 25 Chanted word
  - 27 Sense of taste
  - 28 Gems
  - 29 "Ivanhoe" writer
  - 30 Refer to
  - 31 Deal maker
  - 33 Abound
  - 37 Bowler or boater



10-18

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-18

CRYPTOQUOTE

H X H E C D F V Z I E H W G F I Z S X R

S T F U B , Z C X G Z S F K X S E S C P S T ,

J P S U E S F S V S Y F U . — J Z C J Z C Z

O F U B V E G K X C

**Cryptoquote:** AS YOU LIVE DEEPER  
IN THE HEART, THE MIRROR GETS CLEANER  
AND CLEANER. — RUMI

# Cruise ship Schedule: Oct. 01 - 12 2025

|     |    |                                                     | ARR                     | DEPT                   | BERTH       | CALLS       |
|-----|----|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| WED | 01 | FREEWINDS                                           | 06.00                   | ****                   | E           | 1           |
| SUN | 05 | FREEWINDS - Dept.                                   | ****                    | 22.30                  | E           | -           |
| TUE | 07 | ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS<br>CARNIVAL VISTA             | 07.00<br>13.00          | 16.00<br>23.00         | B<br>C      | 1<br>1      |
| WED | 08 | GRAND PRINCESS<br>RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS<br>FREEWINDS | 08.00<br>08.00<br>06.00 | 18.00<br>23.00<br>**** | B<br>C<br>E | 1<br>1<br>1 |
| THU | 09 | SERENADE OF THE SEAS                                | 08.00                   | 18.00                  | C           | 1           |
| SUN | 12 | FREEWINDS - Dept.                                   | ****                    | 22.30                  | E           | -           |

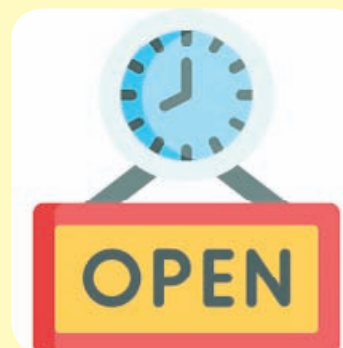
# Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



## Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



## Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 8 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



## Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

# SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

## King Classic Sudoku

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   | 8 |   | 2 |   | 9 | 7 | 5 |
|   | 7 | 4 |   | 5 |   |   |   | 2 |
| 2 |   |   |   | 7 |   |   | 3 |   |
|   | 6 |   | 4 |   |   | 5 |   |   |
| 3 |   |   | 7 |   | 6 | 2 |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   | 4 |   | 1 |   | 9 |
|   | 9 |   | 1 |   |   |   | 4 | 7 |
|   | 1 |   | 3 |   |   |   |   |   |

Difficulty: ★★★★★

10/11

## Answer to previous puzzle

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 2 |
| 6 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 4 |
| 5 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 7 |
| 9 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 8 |
| 7 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| 2 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 9 |
| 4 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 3 |
| 3 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 5 |
| 8 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 1 |

Difficulty: ★★★★★

10/10

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# Arctic seals and more than half of bird species are in trouble on latest list of threatened species

By MELINA WALLING  
Associated Press

Arctic seals are being pushed closer to extinction by climate change and more than half of bird species around the world are declining under pressure from deforestation and agricultural expansion, according to an annual assessment from the International Union for Conservation of Nature. One bright spot is green sea turtles, which have recovered substantially thanks to decades of conservation efforts, the IUCN said Friday as it released its latest Red List of Threatened Species.

While many animals are increasingly at risk of disappearing forever, the updated list shows how species can come back from the brink with dedicated effort, Rima Jabado, deputy chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, told The Associated Press. "Hope and concern go hand in hand in this work," Jabado wrote by email. "The same persistence that brought back the green sea turtle can be mirrored in small, everyday actions supporting sustainable choices, backing conservation initiatives, and urging leaders to follow through on their environmental promises."

The list is updated every year by teams of scientists assessing data on creatures around the world. The scope of the work is enormous and important for science, said Andrew Farnsworth, a visiting scientist at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology who studies bird migration and wasn't involved with the IUCN report.

"Every time one is done and every time there's revision, there's more information, and there's more ability to answer questions" on species, some of which are still largely a mystery to researchers, Farnsworth said.

## Sea ice loss

Because all the marine mammals native to the



A hooded seal is released March 30, 2008, by the University of New England's Marine Animal Rehabilitation Center in Biddeford, Maine.

Associated Press

Arctic seals, whales and polar bears rely on the habitat provided by sea ice, they're all at risk as it diminishes because of human-caused climate change, said Kit Kovacs, co-chair of IUCN's Species Survival Commission Pinniped Specialist Group, which focuses on seals. The three species highlighted in the latest IUCN report harp, hooded and bearded seals have been moved up to a designation of greater concern in the latest update, indicating they are increasingly threatened by extinction, Kovacs said.

The same melting of glaciers and sea ice destroying seal habitats also "gen-

erally will bring escalation in extreme weather events, which are already impacting people around the globe," wrote Kovacs.

"Acting to help seals is acting to help humanity when it comes to climate change," Kovacs said.

## Global bird decline

The update also highlighted Madagascar, West Africa and Central America, where Schlegel's asity, the black-casqued hornbill and the tail-bobbing northern nightingale-wren were all moved to near-threatened status. Those are three specific birds in trouble, but numbers are dropping for around three-fifths of birds globally.

Deforestation of tropi-

cal forests is one of a "depressing litany of threats" to birds, a list that includes agricultural expansion and intensification, competition from invasive species and climate change, said Stuart Butchart, chief scientist at BirdLife International.



## Editor

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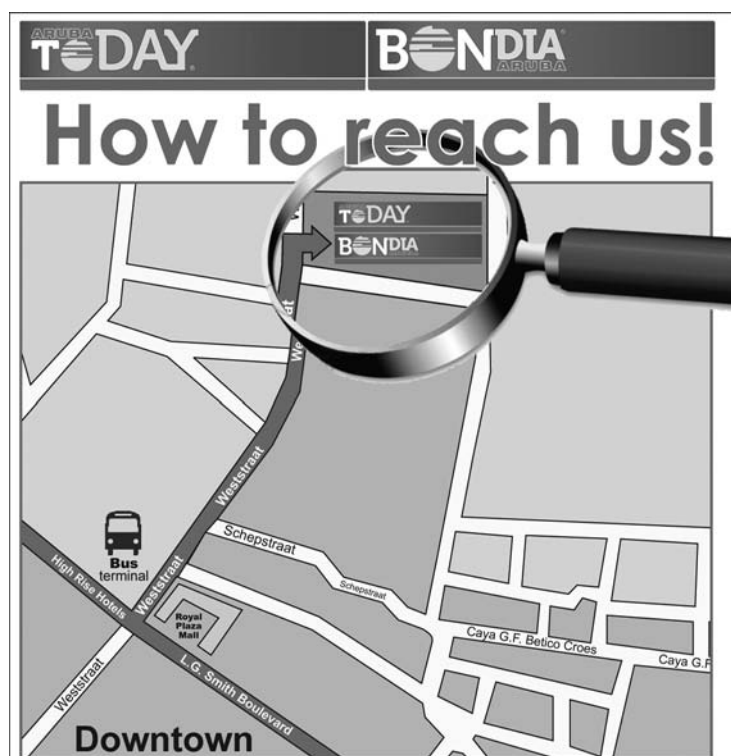
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+297 588 0539

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| Oranjestad     | 527 3140 |
| Noord          | 527 3200 |
| Sta. Cruz      | 527 2900 |
| San Nicolas    | 584 5000 |
| Police Tipline | 11141    |
| Ambulancia     | 911      |
| Fire Dept.     | 115      |
| Red Cross      | 582 2219 |

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| Taxi Tas         | 587 5900 |
| Prof. Taxi       | 588 0035 |
| Taxi D.T.S.      | 587 2300 |
| Taxi Serv. Aruba | 583 3232 |
| A1 Taxi Serv.    | 280 2828 |

## TRAVEL INFO

|                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
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| American Airlines | 582 2700 |
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| Jet Blue          | 588 2244 |
| Surinam           | 582 7896 |

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| FAVI- Visually Impaired               | Tel. 582 5051 |
| Alcoholics Anonymous                  | Tel. 736 2952 |
| Narcotics Anonymous                   | Tel. 583 8989 |
| Fundacion Contra Violencia Relacional | Tel. 583 5400 |
| Centre for Diabetes                   | Tel. 524 8888 |
| Child Abuse Prevention                | Tel. 582 4433 |

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS



# Movie Review: 'Tron' franchise returns in a dazzling, action-packed sequel with plenty of nostalgia

By MARK KENNEDY

AP Entertainment Writer

"Tron: Ares" may have the tagline "No Going Back" but Disney doesn't like to leave money on the table. So here we are, going back with a third entry in a cult franchise that's somewhat trapped between the human and digital worlds.

Ride-or-die Tron-iacs are going to need a few things to be happy: the cool motorbikes that kick off light walls, those glowing Frisbee things attached to everyone's back, and, of course, Jeff Bridges. Director Joachim Rønning gives us all those things and much, much more. Maybe too much.

"Tron: Ares" bites off so much: a light cycle chase through downtown Vancouver, a laser attack by a massive, hovering vehicle, a Jet Ski pursuit, dozens of crushed police cars and endless flipping between Earth and no less than three computer grids that it gets a bit deafening and numbing after two hours, like a late-stage Marvel movie.

How do you go back and yet forward at the same time? The filmmakers have rather cleverly done that by incorporating plot points from the first two movies and building out with new



This image released by Disney shows Greta Lee, from left, Jared Leto and Arturo Castro in a scene from "Tron: Ares."

characters and blurring the divide between flesh and digital worlds.

We begin with a financial battle between two massive technology firms: Encom and Dillinger (think Apple versus Google) who have both come up against the same artificial intelligence ceiling. They can create anything they like in the real world using what looks like 3D printers using lasers but it lasts only for 29 minutes before collapsing into ash. (Twenty-

nine minutes is also the limit to our attention span for this plot.)

The leaders of both firms: Greta Lee, playing Encom's white hat hacker and Evan Peters, playing Dillinger's very evil CEO, are in a race to find the hidden Permanence Code that Bridges' Kevin Flynn created back when the world ran on floppy disks. The fate of the planet rests on whoever finds it. If it's Encom, health care for everyone and a cure for cancer; if it's

Dillinger, a new military of superhuman fighters and, we guess, fascism.

Enter Jared Leto, who is a Dillinger's AI master control, executing all his CEO boss' orders to the letter and who is often reminded that he's expendable. He and his scary deputy (Jodie Turner-Smith) start off robotic, but there's something weird in his wiring: he starts to have all the feels and yearns to be real. ("Tron: Ares" has now officially become a reboot of Pinocchio.)

Leto does well here as the title character, able to deliver a few good lines while executing a rock star strut in a skintight suit, making slow-mo somersaults to avoid deadly light discs or powering his light cycle at dizzying speeds. But it's Lee who steals the show, a very human action heroine for 2025.

The screenplay by Jesse Wigutow, with a story by David DiGilio and Wigutow adds odd pockets of humor, but not enough and sometimes stashed right next to a key figure bleeding out.

There are references to "The Wizard of Oz" and "Frankenstein" and the writers make Leto's soldier a serious fan of '80s synth pop, especially Depeche Mode, which is a call-back to the music swirling at the time of the 1982 original.

If we're talking music, we've got to talk about Nine Inch Nails, who have taken over soundtrack duties from Daft Punk, who composed "Tron: Legacy" in 2010.

Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross are a perfect fit, layering menacing, mechanical sounds on top of thick bars of synth. (They even get on-screen cameos as fighter pilots.) □

Associated Press

## No Doubt reunites for Sphere residency. Gwen Stefani will be first woman to headline the Vegas venue

By MARIA SHERMAN

AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Don't

speak — scream, because No Doubt has announced the band's first run of shows

in 14 years.

After surprising fans with a brief reunion at the 2024 Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival, the ska-punks have set their sights on Las Vegas. The band will embark on a six-show residency at the Sphere: May 6, 8, 9, 13, 15, and 16 in 2026.

The state-of-the-art, 17,500 capacity, \$2.3 billion arena has seen performances by Phish, the Backstreet Boys, Dead & Company, the Eagles and more. No Doubt is making history by joining them — singer Gwen Stefani will become the first woman to headline the space.

"The opportunity to create a show at Sphere excites me in a new way. The venue is unique and modern and it opens up a whole new visual palette for us to be creative," Stefani said in a statement. "Doing it with No Doubt feels like going back in time to relive our history, while also creating something new in a way we never could have imagined."

Presale begins Wednesday at 10 a.m. Pacific; it requires that fans sign up on No Doubt's official website. Tickets will go on sale starting Oct. 17 at 10 a.m. Pacific.

The Sphere opened in

2023. U2 kicked off performances at the venue with a 40-show residency.

No Doubt's last residency, titled "Seven Night Stand," took place in Los Angeles in 2012.

"I can't wait to get on stage again with my bandmates. There is a beautiful energy that happens when we play together, an electricity I have felt through all of our years," bassist Tony Kanal said in a statement. "To be able to leave it all on the table each night and take our fans on the insane journey that is Sphere is beyond our wildest dreams. See you in May!" □



Gwen Stefani of No Doubt performs during the FireAid benefit concert in Inglewood, Calif., on Jan. 30, 2025.

Associated Press



# NBA GMs overwhelmingly pick Thunder to repeat as champions, Jokic for MVP

**NEW YORK (AP)** — NBA general managers overwhelmingly expect the Oklahoma City Thunder to be the league's first repeat champion in nearly a decade, while Denver's Nikola Jokic is their pick to reclaim the MVP award and Miami's Erik Spoelstra was once again the pick as best coach.

Those were among the findings of the league's annual preseason polling of general managers, the results of which were released Thursday. The Thunder got 80% of the vote — teams could not vote for themselves or their own personnel in the survey — in response to the question of which team would win this season's title. No team has gone back-to-back since Golden State in 2016-17 and 2017-18.

Cleveland and Denver each got 7% of the vote, while Houston and New York each 3%.

## MVP

The GMs were clear: They expect another international player to be MVP — players born outside the U.S. have won each of the last seven MVP trophies — and Jokic is the overwhelming pick to win what would be his fourth in a span of six seasons.

He got 67% of the vote, followed by Luka Doncic of the Los Angeles Lakers (10%), reigning MVP Shai Gilgeous-



Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic responds to questions during an NBA basketball media day news conference Monday, Sept. 29, 2025, in Denver.

Alexander of Oklahoma City (8%), and Victor Wembanyama of the San Antonio Spurs (7%).

## Top 4 seeds

If the GMs are to be believed, the top four playoff seeds in the Eastern Conference will be, in order, Cleveland, New York, Orlando and Atlanta. In the West, Oklahoma City was followed by Denver, Houston and Minnesota.

## Best at their position

Gilgeous-Alexander (73%) was the runaway pick as best point guard, with Minnesota's Anthony Edwards

(70%) the top pick at shooting guard, Doncic (40%) the best small forward, Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo (93%) the top vote-getter at power forward and Jokic (97%) was the pick of almost everyone at center. The Nuggets couldn't vote for Jokic; by process of elimination, that means Denver's vote for best center likely went to Wembanyama, since he was the only other player to receive a vote as the best center.

And the best pure shooter was nearly unanimous:

Golden State's Stephen Curry (93%) got almost all votes, with his former Warriors teammate Klay Thompson — now with Dallas — getting the other 7%.

Curry was also the pick as best leader, and the player GMs would want taking the shot with the outcome of a game hanging in the balance.

## Most improved team

The GMs expect to see big jumps from Orlando (47%) and Atlanta (20%), making those clubs two of the top three votegetters when

asked which team will be improved the most this season. San Antonio tied Atlanta, getting 20% of the voting.

## Rookie of the year

To no surprise, No. 1 pick Cooper Flagg of Dallas was the pick to win rookie of the year. Flagg got 97% of the vote, likely meaning 29 of the 30 if all teams submitted an answer.

The only other player to get a vote was Philadelphia's VJ Edgecombe (3%).

## Best defensive player

Again, no surprise: Wembanyama got 80% of the vote, with Minnesota's Rudy Gobert and Cleveland's Evan Mobley (7%) a distant second.

Wembanyama was widely picked as the favorite to win defensive player of the year last season before he was shut down in February following a diagnosis of deep vein thrombosis.

## Best coach

Spoelstra once again was picked as the best coach in the league, getting 52% of the vote. Oklahoma City's Mark Daigneault (34%) was second.

Spoelstra was the narrow choice as best manager or motivator of people as well, his 28% of the vote there barely edging Houston's Ime Udoka (24%), Golden State's Steve Kerr (14%) and Boston's Joe Mazzulla (14%).

# Dodgers rolling in defense of World Series title after closing out Phillies to reach NLCS

By **BETH HARRIS**  
AP Sports Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — The Los Angeles Dodgers are on track to be the first repeat World Series champions in a quarter century, helped along by superb starting pitching, a flame-throwing rookie in the bullpen and strong defense.

They were swigging and spraying from bottles with — oops — NLCS on the labels while partying in the team's batting cage after a wild 2-1 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies in 11 innings on Thursday night.

"We're going to find a way to win a ballgame even when

things aren't going our way," utility player Kiké Hernández said.

NL West champion Los Angeles took the best-of-five NL Division Series 3-1 and will play either the NL Central-winning Milwaukee Brewers or runner-up Chicago Cubs in the best-of-seven NL Championship Series that starts Monday. Those teams play a decisive Game 5 on Saturday in Milwaukee.

The Dodgers dropped four of seven to the Cubs during the regular season. The Brewers swept their six games with the Dodgers, outscoring them 31-16 while holding Los Angeles to two or fewer

runs in four of those games. No matter who's up next, the Dodgers are rolling at the right time, winning five of their first six postseason games. Blake Snell and Tyler Glasnow lead a stellar rotation. Two-way superstar Shohei Ohtani is a candidate to start on the mound in Game 1 of the NLCS.

"The whole pitching staff, we don't win this series if it wasn't for them," Hernández said.

The defense is helping, too. The Dodgers made a couple of clutch defensive plays during a 4-3 win in Game 2 against the Phillies.

Freddie Freeman had a game-saving pick at first



Los Angeles Dodgers' Hyeseong Kim scores past Philadelphia Phillies catcher J.T. Realmuto on a ground ball by Andy Pages and a throwing error by Phillies pitcher Orion Kerkering during the eleventh inning in Game 4 of baseball's National League Division Series Thursday, Oct. 9, 2025, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

base and they successfully executed a defensive

wheel play with the Phillies threatening.



# Parity or poor football? NFL is providing plenty of close games with exciting finishes

By **ROB MAADDI**

**AP Pro Football Writer**

Some call it parity. Others consider it bad football.

No matter how it's viewed, the NFL is providing plenty of close games, thrilling comebacks, big upsets and late-minute heroics. It keeps viewers entertained — or at least tuned in until the end. Five weeks in, 24 games have featured a winning score in the final two minutes of regulation or in overtime. That's the most through Week 5 in league history. Seven teams did it last week, including Tampa Bay for the fourth time already this season. Six teams overcame double-digit deficits last week. Four of those teams trailed by 14 points or more.

"There's a lot of parity in this league right now," Buccaneers coach Todd Bowles said, trying to explain all the comebacks. "Without a lot of people playing in training camp, these first five weeks are really preseason ball games as far as penalties and getting everybody on the same page and doing those types of things.

Hopefully that calms down,



**New York Giants' Cam Skattebo reacts after a touchdown during the second half of an NFL football game against the Philadelphia Eagles Thursday, Oct. 9, 2025, in East Rutherford, N.J.**

**Associated Press**

and hopefully we can do the right things and cut down on the mistakes and stretch the games out a little bit and not win them at the end. It's been like that all over the league and you see it every week."

Bowles isn't the first coach to refer to the first month of the season as the preseason. Bill Belichick used to say it of-

ten. Now, even fewer starters are playing in exhibition games, offseason sessions have decreased and there isn't much hitting in training camp except for joint practices.

"That's this league right now. There is so much parity," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said after Kansas City had 13 penalties in a 31-28 loss

to Jacksonville on Monday night. "That's why I mentioned after the game the penalties, turnovers, and so on. You can't have those; the games are too close, too much competition — equal competition, so you have to take care of business there and it's my responsibility to make sure that is done."

All of those factors lead to

sloppy, mistake-filled, penalty-riddled football games. But it also means there aren't any dominant teams, games are tighter and upsets are more common.

"This league is full of one-score games. It's the way it's designed; there's a lot of parity," Bears coach Ben Johnson said. "It's five weeks in and we have no undefeated teams. Any given Sunday; that's a true mantra. ... There's a million ways you can win games in this league. Even watching some of the games on Sunday, there's a lot of bad football still being played early in the season here. We needed special teams to come out on top last week. We needed defense to come through with all those turnovers or else we don't come out on top.

We needed offense despite how rocky it was in the first half to find a little bit of a groove there in the second half and score 16 points on four possessions. Each week's different, but you're never out of it, not in this league. You can score points in a hurry, which is always exciting." □

## Joe Flacco confident stepping in as Bengals' starting quarterback against Packers



**Cleveland Browns quarterback Joe Flacco (15) throws during the second half of an NFL football game against the Detroit Lions, Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025, in Detroit.**

**Associated Press**

By **CHARLIE GOLDSMITH**  
**Associated Press**

**CINCINNATI (AP)** — New Cincinnati Bengals quarterback Joe Flacco said he wouldn't still be playing at 40 years old if he wasn't

confident he could play at the level of a starter.

After the Bengals traded for him on Tuesday and immediately tabbed him as their starter, they're counting on Flacco being correct.

"I think the best way for me to do it is just keep simple," Flacco said. "I think a lot of the times when you've played a lot of ball, and when you've been around a lot of ball, you can get to the point where you overcomplicate things and you just, you're just making things harder on yourself. "So honestly, I think my experience, in this regard, is going to help me, in the sense that I don't have all the answers. Just keep it simple."

Flacco opened the year as the Cleveland Browns' quarterback, but was benched last week for rookie Dillon Gabriel. The Bengals were looking for a quarterback following Joe Burrow's toe injury in Week 2 and Jake Browning's strug-

gles the last three games. That put the wheels in motion for a trade between the two AFC North rivals.

"A lot of the times when you're going through things as a player, you just adapt," Flacco said. "You go with it. I think with everything in life, when things happen to you, you're like all right, how do we go forward? What's the next step?"

Flacco's next step has been learning a new offense on the fly. Bengals coach Zac Taylor said Flacco's football IQ and professionalism have helped him hit the ground running. Flacco also faced this week's opponent, the Green Bay Packers, when Flacco was with the Browns three weeks ago.

Flacco completed 21 of 36 passes for 142 yards

with one interception and no touchdown passes in Cleveland's 13-10 victory over the Packers on Sept. 21.

"You don't want to just go get anybody, you want to get somebody you think fits our offense and complements our receivers well and has experience," Taylor said. "A veteran guy who has real playing experience, bonus that he's played in this division. His skill set complements our receivers and I think gives everybody a lift here after three losses.

"We're trying to push through it and guys have done a great job of that, but I think this is just a lift of, 'Hey, we're willing to do anything to go find a way to win.'" □